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The Capital City.

An Early Morning Fire in Columbia--Wrestling Matches Rivaling Base Ball--Other Matters of Interest.

Mr. Editor: There is "nothing doing" in the city of Columbia.

Are not Lancastrians afraid of freezing to death? Why complain of this nice cool weather with the thermometer at 101?

Say, were the citizens of the Red Rose city suddenly awakened Monday morning about 3 o'clock? No, the world was not coming to an end. The Columbia Base Ball team had not crawled out of the cellar that the whole surrounding country should be startled at such an early hour. Nor were they proclaiming to the world that Rock Hill and Chester had the only two ball teams in the world. The "racket" was not because electric cars had begun in dear old Rock Hill. But there were something like a score or more of whistles blowing as never had whistles been known to blow. Many could not sleep because of the intense heat; others had just "dozed off"; some had been fortunate enough to become victors over the hot weather and were in dreamland. But at or about 3 a. m. those asleep had their "sweet repose" disturbed by these whistles. And mind you they came from the Seaboard engines. They were blowing at full force and "great was the 'fuss' thereof." Many jumped up and ran to their windows and soon discovered that there was a fire. It sounded like the whole city was ablaze, but it proved to be three dwellings near the Seaboard yards and as the fire alarm wouldn't work the whistles were blown to tell of the flames and they "sho" did it. The damage was not very great. One house destroyed, another practically destroyed and a third partially damaged, and while the loss was heavy it was not exceedingly great. And there were people in Columbia and near the scene who had the nerve Monday to tell that they slept through it all.

This is getting to be a great wrestling loving city. The latest matches were last week, Wednesday night at Columbia Theatre George Sovern, the "Kansas Wonder," and Pete Douglas the "Scotch Hercules," met on the mat. After one hour and 37 minutes of work, hard work Sovern could not put both shoulders to the floor and gave the match to Douglas. He was "all in," as he said. Now there was another man, Ed Adamson, a great wrestler challenged either one for a match at the Ball Park. Thursday at 5 p. m. there was a game between Granby and the Y. M. C. A., but after the game the match took place. The night before the Scotchman felt fine when he accepted Ed's challenge but his long fight on Wednesday night

told on him and he was thrown easily. At the end of the first round some of Pete's friends said he wasn't down and it looked like a row for a while but the Scotchman accepted it as a fall and the row was stopped. Then Douglas said he was in poor trim and couldn't do himself justice, so he challenged Adamson for another match. It is thought that he tried to "wind" his antagonist on Wednesday night and if he did he certainly accomplished his purpose.

Col. T. Y. Williams was here last week.

John T. Stevens, Esq. was here Sunday.

Mr. J. Rodgers Magill, of Kershaw, is taking a business course at McFeat's.

Mrs. Belle J. Nance has a position with the E. A. Jenkins Motor Co. These people, Messrs E. A. & T. B. Jenkins, have the agency for the Reo at Columbia, Charleston and Sumter. It was the Sumter firm that sold the car load recently in Lancaster.

An employee at the Columbia Duck mills evidently was not satisfied with this life and took three bottles of laudanum. He died after several hours, though physicians tried to save his life.

The glorious Fourth was quietly spent. A few fire works were "shot off" and several of "Young America" regaled themselves in fancy costumes. The day seemed like Sunday.

The days of the G. M. I. will soon be numbered. The Commission is winding up the affairs in a "jiffy."

And still improvements are being made in Lancaster. And Lancaster is O. K.

Lancastrian.

Columbia, S. C., July 10, 1907.

An Appeal to President not to Send Fleet to Pacific Ocean.

Philadelphia, July 10.—The executive committee of the Universal Peace Union at a meeting here today, placed itself on record as opposed to sending a fleet of war ships to the Pacific Ocean. The committee adopted the following:

"In view of the feeling existing in the international relations between Japan and the Government of the United States, we regard the proposition as reported, of sending a fleet of battle ships to the Pacific border as unwise, inopportune and irritating, especially as the second peace conference is now in session at The Hague, where are assembled over 250 delegates representing 45 Governments with a large and eminently able delegation from the United States and with representatives from Japan.

"Believing that such action is calculated to impair, if not to destroy, the anticipated results of said conference and lead more to war than to peace, we appeal to President Roosevelt to withhold any such demonstration."

A Plea for Temperance.

The Evils of Liquor Drinking and Liquor Selling--"The Perils of Alcohol" Should be Taught in the Sunday Schools.

Written for The Lancaster News.

It is not necessary for me to characterize the drunkard, too well you know his character, and of the homes which have been ruined; the lives that have been wrecked by him. We see thousands of these instruments of evil reaching out all over our land to bring destruction upon our boys, the hope of the country. How long will you fathers tolerate and encourage this evil? Oh! what fearful wreck and ruin are wrought to satisfy the poor, besotted wretch, who forgets his very soul in satisfying his appetite for strong drink.

The picture is one you cannot do justice to, try as you may. You find concealed in the wine cup more woe, misery and distress than come from all other crimes of mankind. You see by it manhood brought to a condition below the brute. You see father and brothers going down into that place where there are no respect, no honor, no mercy, no sympathy and no blessing; where there are only confusion and sin. Young man, shun the wine cup as you would a viper. You cannot conceive of the danger that is lurking there.

But the darkest scene is that in the home of the poor wretch, who feeds his soul upon the fiery poison and the poor babe is starved at its mother's breast. You see the fireless hearth, the shivering forms, and the empty cupboard. You wonder why God in His infinite wisdom should doom the innocent victims to gratify the thirst of the wicked one. You cannot realize the terrible, the mortal agony of the drunkard's wife, the tears and supplications on one hand, on the other, the blows.

Now, I appeal to you with a heart of love and pity, not to ignore this terrible specter, which stalks the earth like an evil spirit, and brings to an untimely grave so many of your fellow-beings. See the accumulation of untold wealth wrung from the tears of innocent victims! See how the moral principles of man sink into this great maelstrom, which swallows up the mind, the body, and the soul of man.

A wise man said: "If I were asked, 'what is the greatest blessing the families of America could have next to religion?' I would say: 'It is elementary instruction on the perils of alcohol.'" The Sunday school is the place for this instruction. This should begin among the children. Little children are far wiser than most people imagine and can easily be taught the inherent badness of alcohol. To reach the people—the masses—we must begin with

the children. In this way the teachers, the parents and the communities are reached as could be possible in no other way. "That which we plant in our schools we shall reap in our nation's life." Let us work and pray earnestly that this deadly poison may cease to spoil our native land.

It is the duty of those who have the church's interest in their care and direction to bring the entire membership up to the position where they are free of this thirst. Appeals to reason and the power of persuasion should be used to save our people from intemperance, and if these fail the discipline of the church should be rigidly, though kindly, enforced, for drunkenness cannot be tolerated among us. Drinking spirituous liquors is so great a peril as to be a sin and drunkenness is a crime. Shall we tolerate criminals in our church? Will you sit with folded hands and see your brother led into the depth of disgrace and sin?

We do not believe that the blessing of God will rest upon any revenue that is obtained by the sale of intoxicating liquors. A few dollars to each child, meaning a few days more at school, is a poor return for debasing the public sentiment of an entire commonwealth. There is no moral difference between the sale of liquor by the State and the sale by one citizen to another; but the official sanction given to liquor drinking by the State is a more potent for evil in perverting the moral sense of the people and in lowering the standard. This liquor traffic is not a question of control but of complete prohibition. Let us strive to rid our country of this curse. May this be our motto:

"Against this Power of Evil now
We ardently contend;
As soldiers of the right we vow,
To combat to the end."

Temperance.

The Sending of Battle Ships to Pacific not Intended to Overawe Japs.

Oakland, Cal., July 11.—Secretary of the Navy Metcalf deprecates the war-like aspect that has been given the order of the cruise of the great battleship squadron from the Atlantic to the Pacific coast. The Secretary said last night that the proposed movement was that of a practice cruise and that the fleet would not be kept in the Pacific permanently. He declared that the length of time that the fleet would remain on the western side of the continent had not yet been decided.

With considerable emphasis the Secretary voiced his opinion that the war-like interpretation that had been made in connection with the fleet's movement was not justified by the facts. In fact the widely published reports suggesting hostile preparations, seem to be a source of irritation for the head of the navy.

The Chesterfield Railroad.

Why it Should be Extended to Lancaster--The Points that Would be Especially Benefited.

Mr. Editor: We want to see the Chesterfield Railroad extended to Lancaster. While it may not be of much benefit to the town of Lancaster, still it would pass through about eighteen miles of good farming and timbered lands of our county and would be of very great benefit to the parties along its line, especially in the central and eastern part of the county, where it is now so hard to get to market.

This railroad leading out from Chesterfield is now said to be complete to a point one or two miles this side of the Fox place, and within about three or three and one-half miles of Lynchess river. This leaves a distance of about 21 miles to bring it to Lancaster.

This road is being built in the valley of Hills Creek and if ever extended to Lancaster will cross Lynchess river at or near the ford on the Chesterfield dirt road.

From a map I have made of the school districts, I find a direct line from here to Lancaster will lead up Wild Cat creek a little north of Mr. Sam Laney's, and further on a little south of Mr. Wm. Estridges's, and cross the Rocky River road near Mr. Billie McManus'; then by way of Mr. Allen Walter's, and Amos Belk's, Gills Creek school house, the bridge on Hannah's Creek, and through the Jones farm on up town. Now, while it might for good reasons and special inducements go round south by Antioch, or round north by way of Tradesville and Camp Creek, still Carnes, Dwight, Dixie, and Gills creek are on a more direct route and we think the leading men of these places will do well to begin to talk and work for this railroad.

Chesterfield is helping with fifty thousand dollars to build this road across her county.

We believe this road will be built to Lancaster, but if a branch line is first built to Monroe it may be several years before it connects with Lancaster; however, we hope it will soon come to Lynchess river and give that section a station and depot, which will be worth thousands of dollars to the eastern part of our county. But of course we would rather see it brought on straight to Lancaster at once.

Mr. Editor, can't you furnish a little natural gas from your press engine to help us with the wind work of this road? You have been blowing your town of late for all it is worth and now we want you to suck in and try to help draw the Chesterfield road to your town.

We hope Lancaster will offer Mr. Page some inducements for this road and not let it go first to Monroe without an effort to get it ourselves.

T. M. Belk.